

No Parking Anytime

H.P.D.

on the governor nichols street wharf behind the
oil drums
i watched the gulls, the barges, the harbor patrol
the sailor on the witte zee watched me
i wondered what youd think if i got on the witte zee
and on that sailor
what would the sailor think?
i said if i walk the whole wharf and walk it slow
without stepping on a crack
by the time i get back
youll be finished writing poetry for the day

on the way back
i passed the witte zee
whatre you doing one sailor said
there were now four sailors on the witte zee
writing poetry i said
they laughed, i laughed
come here another said
no i said
im finished with poetry for today

-- Darlene Fife

New Orleans, La.

Tonight the Phone Rang

tonite the phone rang & i won't anser it
it's not easy not to anser the phone
suppose it's sumbody in jail

later on sumbody knockt on the door
i wdnt let em in

i'm saving tonite for a poem

suppose it was sumbody in jail
will the poem be worth it
a nite in jail

suppose it was an awol knockt on the door
suppose he gets caught
will the poem be worth it
5 years hard labor